

we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history with the election of our first African-American President, Barack Obama. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

THE OVERSEAS VOTING  
PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MICHAEL M. HONDA (D-CA) to re-introduce the Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act which would protect the voting rights of the millions of American citizens currently living overseas. The Overseas Citizens Voting Act of 1975 guaranteed the right to vote for military personnel and U.S. citizens living overseas. However, a quarter of our men and women in the armed forces stationed overseas didn't even receive a ballot for November's election. More than half of overseas Americans that tried but could not vote, were unable to because their ballots were late or did not arrive.

Right now, far too many overseas Americans are being disenfranchised by a tangle of bureaucratic red tape. The problems are many, including delivery issues, general lack of awareness of available voter assistance programs, and archaic state voting laws. Our bill proposes simple, inexpensive fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARGARET'S  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA  
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district, St. Margaret's Episcopal School, that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. The St. Margaret's football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Small Schools State Championship. In the championship game, St. Margaret's defeated Hamilton Union (Hamilton City) 59 to 7.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title "Champions." The members of the winning football team include:

Team Co-Captains Jeremy Baileys, Alex Brolick, David Mothander, and Chase Smith along with teammates John Murayama, Matthew Duenes, Conner Edgcomb, Michael Schmall, Austin Holden, Brennan Smith, Kent Iizuka, Chris Adams, James Murayama, Travis Anderson, Davis Edwards, JT Carpenter, Adam Miyawaki, Justin Oh, Leo Garcia, Jeff Askin, Colfax Selby, Alfredo Valencia, Will

Findiesen, Connor McClure, Max Carpenter, Brett Nicholas and Mack Santora.

The team is led by Head Coach Harry Welch; Assistants Rod Baltau, Chris Colaw, Mark Davidson, Jay Noonan, Mel Taylor, Fr. Reggie Payne-Wiens, Brent Ward, and Butch Ward; Athletic Trainer Dave Tomlinson; and Team Managers Kira Cahill, Anna Maria Carabini, Emily Furman, and Valerie Wu.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire St. Margaret's community, for this truly great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND IN-  
CENTIVES FOR A NEW DECADE  
ENERGY ACT OF 2009

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wind Incentives for a New Decade (WIND) Energy Act of 2009, which would extend the production tax credit (PTC) over the next decade to demonstrate that we are committed to powering our nation with more alternative and clean electricity.

Electricity prices have soared more than 26 percent nationally since 2000. Wind energy and other renewable energy resources are a crucial component to ensuring that Americans have access to clean, reliable, diversified, and affordable electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind energy today accounts for approximately 3 percent of electricity produced in the United States. However, wind energy capacity has the potential to significantly increase in the United States in the future—but only if we have a stable investment climate.

A clean, reliable, and renewable energy source, wind-generated electricity produces no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, in 2007, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) estimated that wind energy displaced more than 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. A 2007 report compiled by the American Solar Energy Society indicates that widespread use of wind has the potential to displace up to 1,780 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

By extending the PTC through 2020, my bill would create long-term fiscal stability primarily in the wind energy market. This certainty is vital to wind energy project planning and development. By providing a long-term credit, wind energy developers can attract investors and plan out schedules for project development, thereby creating an efficient and cost-effective process for allocating resources and encouraging investment in this industry. This alone has the potential to reduce the costs associated with many of these projects thereby making wind-generated electricity more competitive with other types of electricity that is generated.

The wind energy industry currently employs over 85,000 individuals and indirectly employs tens of thousands more in industry-related

support services. With a current national unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, which is higher in the construction sector (21.4 percent) and manufacturing sector (11.5 percent), providing long term stability in the tax code for the PTC would help create sustainable, good-paying jobs. In fact, in 2008, AWEA estimates the wind industry invested over \$7.8 billion in wind turbines, primarily made of steel, which translated into purchases of more than \$3 billion of steel and cast iron components.

Additionally, a report published in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a 5- to 10-year extension of the PTC, relative to one- or two-year extensions, could reduce the cost of wind projects by up to 15 percent, result in better transmission line planning, enhance private research and development spending, and significantly increase domestic manufacturing of wind equipment thereby, creating American jobs. In addition, this report goes on to indicate that by extending the PTC through 2020, wind energy has the potential to increase in the United States from about 3 percent to 17 percent of our electricity supply by 2030.

Unfortunately, since its creation in 1992, the PTC has been allowed to expire three times, only to be retroactively renewed and extended. In addition, Congress has very nearly allowed this credit to expire many times, but then has passed 11th hour extensions of the provision. The 3-year extension of the PTC included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill is a good start; however, given the history of extending this credit, such uncertainty in this process is a major disincentive to long-term wind and renewable energy development. This situation has led to a boom-bust cycle in wind energy rather than a consistent, longterm investment in one of our nation's limitless green energy resources. For instance, information compiled by AWEA shows that each time the PTC was allowed to expire but then was reactively renewed and extended, the subsequent year wind energy installations decreased 73 percent—93 percent compared to the prior year.

Kern County, which I represent, is a model of renewable energy resources, and Tehachapi, California, is a leader in wind energy development. In fact, the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, located in the Tehachapi Mountains of eastern Kern, has attracted wind energy developers because, if you have ever been there, the wind blows nearly all the time through the mountain tops and valleys. Under-scoring the vast wind energy potential in this area, over 3,500 wind turbines have already been installed, which produce electricity to power more than 250,000 homes and create more than 650 jobs (both directly and indirectly) in the local communities. In addition, Kern County produces over 30 percent of the total wind-generated power in California, and accounts for about 5 percent of the total wind power generated in the United States. Even with all of this, it is my understanding there is still opportunity for significant expansion of wind power in the Kern-Tehachapi area, which some estimates put as high as bringing an additional 6,000 megawatts of wind-generated electricity online. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, as well as the United States', vast potential for wind energy can be developed in a reliable and timely manner,